



31 January 2008

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D C 20554

Re: Ex Parte Notice

Amendment of the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing Aid Compatible
Mobile Handsets, WT Docket No. 07-250

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, January 31, 2008, a representative of the Hearing Loss Association (HLAA) Brenda Battat, Acting Executive Director, spoke on the telephone with Jeffrey S. Steinberg, Deputy Chief, Spectrum and Competition Policy Division. The discussion was regarding product tiering of mobile phones. HLAA reiterated its position that HLAA understood product tiering to mean when consumers shop for a phone that they have choice. By choice we mean a selection of phones to choose from with a variety of features, form and price. Further Ms. Battat stated that hearing aid compatibility would be the threshold when purchasing a phone and selection of other features, form and price would necessarily follow that. Consumers have requested that phones be searchable via HAC on company websites.

A selection of features, form and price we believe is entirely possible when a number of models are offered. In the case where a company only offers a few mobile handsets, say three or less, then clearly it becomes more difficult to have as much choice available. Ms. Battat emphasized that the FCC not issue a full blown exemption in such a case but include a common sense explanation in the rule that the smaller the range of products there will be less choice. However, when there are a greater number of phones, more than three, then a variety of price, features and form would be expected.

Thank you.

Brenda Battat
Acting Executive Director